53. Need for industrial schools.

Mr. S. J. Williams (Member, Neyyattinkara Taluk) said that, if a country wished to be rich, honored and self-dependent, its industries should be developed with the object of (1) utilising its raw materials, (2) discovering substitutes for things in large demand, when there were no natural products of the land to satisfy such demand, and (3) making use of what are known as "waste". But in Travancore people had not yet sufficiently turned their attention to natural products even with a view to convert them into manufactured goods for local consumption. In the opinion of the Member, the backwardness of industries in the country was due to (1) popular ignorance of the importance of industries; (2) absence of facilities for industrial and technological training; (3) the faith of the people in time-honored contrivances and their unwillingness to adjust themselves to new surroundings; (4) scrambling for landed property and absence of floating capital; and (5) lack of research institutes and ignorance of the importance of research work.

To create a proper atmosphere for removing these drawbacks the Member suggested that Government should establish research institutes and allow people interested in research to work there freely, demonstrate profitable industries, such as paper making, shellac industry, varnish making, sugar manufacture, tapioca-flour making and pencil manufacture, and then hand them over to companies with or without Government partnership.

The Member next proceeded to point out that the education that was imparted by the State was purely literary and requested Government to revise without delay the school curricula and provide for a well-considered scheme of scientific, industrial and technical education side by side with literary education. The Government should make it possible for every boy and girl to be equipped with a practical knowledge of at least one art or industry, so that the student might be in a position to lead an independent life. Some of the home industries which could be so taught in the State with advantage were in his opinion (1) pickle and jam making, (2) brush-making, (3) rubber-stamp making, (4) button-making, (5) making toys of clay, paper and wood, (6) cane and bamboo work, (7) silk-worm rearing, (8) extracting fibre from plantain, aloe and pine-apple, (9) hand-loom weaving, (10) making socks and other hosiery work, (11) making boot polishes, (12) electro-plating, (13) watch repairing, (14) envelope-making, and (15) book-binding. In conclusion, the Member said that with a view to help factory industries and secure higher technical training, the Government should, in course of time, provide Industrial and Technical schools and colleges and establish libraries of technical books in the vernacular.

Dewan's reply.—I thank you for your very interesting paper. In regard to the revision of the school curriculum so as to include vocational training in institutions for general education, that question has been considered very carefully, as you know, by a conference, and it has come to the conclusion that, at present at any rate, it is not possible or desirable to provide for vocational education in schools maintained for imparting general education. I quite agree with you when you say that industrial institutions should be increased; that is what the Government are trying to do. You have laid before Government a very ambitious programme. The difficulty lies in carrying it out to the full. Government are trying their best to advance industries and industrial education, and they will continue to do so.

54. Need for financial help towards the establishment of an Industrial Orphanage.

Mr. P. J. Joseph (Member, Nominated) represented that there were several orphans in the Cheramar community who were not taken care of by anybody and prayed that a Cheramar orphan industrial home might be established in each Division with free board and lodging for at least one hundred Cheramar orphan boys and one hundred Cheramar orphan girls and that these orphans should be taught carpentry, smithery, mat-making, domestic science, household accountancy, rattan work, weaving, shoe-making and other industries and crafts. In these industrial schools instruction should also be given in practical agriculture; *puduval* lands should be set apart for establishing agricultural farms for growing the different

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cereals, vegetables, etc. The several articles made and grown in these industrial homes and agricultural farms could be easily disposed of and thus the homes might be gradually placed on a self-supporting basis. The orphans after their training should be settled in small agricultural holdings consisting of three acres each, so that they might become self-reliant and respectable citizens without depending for their subsistence on the charity and beneficence of the public.

Dewan's reply.—I do not believe in orphanages run by the State. Such orphanages cannot work properly, nor can the Government establish orphanages for particular classes or communities. Government are now giving grants to six orphanages where children are given primary and technical education. They are run by private persons who have made it their life-business. It is only such people that can run these institutions efficiently and properly. When more orphanages are established, Government will be glad to give them grants, if they deserve help and encouragement.

V. PUBLIC WORKS.

55. Defects in the working of the Irrigation system in Nanjinad and some suggestions for remedying them.

Mr. Kanakku Matevan Pillai Kumaraswami Pillai (Member, Agastisvaram Taluk) referred to the Pachipara dam and reservoir constructed at a cost of about 80 lakhs of rupees and said that the water of the reservoir was being used for irrigating more lands than were contemplated in the original scheme. The quantity of water impounded in the reservoir was quite inadequate to meet the demands of 63,795 acres of converted and 3,500 acres of unconverted lands. The remedy lay either in restricting the cultivable area in proportion to the quantity of water impounded in the reservoir or providing extra sources of water supply, if it was considered necessary to feed all the existing lands. In spite of the vast extent of paddy lands in existence in Nanjinad, it would be a great pity if they were left uncultivated merely for want of sufficient water supply. He referred to Mr. Horsley's view that, as the water impounded in the Pachipara reservoir would not be sufficient for all the wet lands, additional reservoirs should be constructed at Shoorlacode, Thadicaranconam, Alatturayar, Poigayar, Vambar, Perunikalambu and Tiruvayar.

He also made reference to the views of Mr. Barton, one of the former Chief Engineers of the State, that the Paralayar should be dammed to prevent water running to waste and a reservoir constructed at Perunchani. Unless some of the above reservoirs were constructed, the Pachipara reservoir alone would not be able to supply water to all the wet lands since the tank beds had all been sold away and no water could be stored in them as of old. As scarcity of water was very keenly felt, he urged the necessity of putting up some of the reservoirs referred to, and of improving the existing tanks.

He mentioned the following channels branching from Pachipara as being useful to his taluk for irrigation, viz., Tovala channel, Pazhayar, Nanjinad Puthanar Channel, Alathorayar, and Anandanar.

As regards the Tovala Channel, the Member said that, though its holding capacity was only 3 feet, 5½ feet of water were being let into the channel, with the result that breaches occurred due to high pressure, making the agriculturists lose everything, and that the water in the channel did not reach the fields in the last block. Further, the system of distributaries being cut by the ryots led to much inconvenience in practice and he suggested that lands should be acquired by Government and arrangements made to take water to all the fields simultaneously. The defects were prominent in the Anandanar, the Asaripallamkal and other places. To remedy these grievances the Member suggested that the Tovala Channel should be widened and that, if it was not possible to do so on account of the heavy cost, the Alathorayar (between Tovala Channel and the Nanjinad Puthanar Channel) should be extended from the Puliyurkurichi tank near Tazhakudi to where the Puthanar empties itself. The extension would supply water to all the fields simultaneously and there would be no occurrence of breaches. He also advocated the construction of tanks near the channels.

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